

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH CISL

REF: ROME 3079

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DC SECRETARY FANFANI AND ASORTED PARTY LEADERS INTERESTED IN TRADE UNION AFFAIRS (DONAT-CATTIN, VITTORINO COLOMBO, EX-LABMIN COPPO...) MET WITH CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STROTI, CISL MINORITY LEADERS, AND EX-CISL PERSONALITIES ON APRIL 18. MEETING BILLED AS FIRST IN A SERIES OF ENCOUNTERS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE CISL/DC COOPERATION. BASIC PURPOSE OF MEETING ACCORDING BOTH UNION AND DC SOURCES WAS TO MAKE KNOWN DC CONCERN WITH TGYND TOWARD A LABOR UNITY LIKELY TO FAVOR COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL. DC ALSO WISHED TO LET WORD GO FORTH THAT HENCEFORTH THE PARTY WOULD BE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LABOR AFFAIRS. DC APPARENTLY ASSURED CISL THAT THE PARTY DID NOT INTEND TO FOSTER A SCHISM WITHIN THE CISL. YET MEETING CONSTRUED BY SOME AS THREAT

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THAT DC PREPARED TO JUST THAT. END SUMMARY.

2. FRAMEWORK OF THE MEETING IN WHICH ONLY FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CISL MAJORITY WERE INVITED (SEVERAL OTHERS HAD BEEN DISINVITED BECAUSE OF PRO-DIVORCE STATEMENTS) TO INTERACT WITH 30 PARTICIPANTS FROM DC PARTY CIRCLES, CISL MINORITY, EX-CISL AND CATHOLIC ACTION GROUPS WERE CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE BY CISL MAJORITY. SECGEN STORTI TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE CISL SECRETARIAT HAD DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS. STORTI THEN ATTENDED MEETING HIMSELF IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY ONLY.

3. ACCORDING STORTI, PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI WAS EXTREMELY COURTEOUS AND SAID THAT HE WISHED TO BRING NO PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE UNION BUT INSTEAD HOPED TO DEVELOP BETTER DC/CISL COORDINATION AND DIALOGUE. POLEMICS IN FIVE-HOUR MEETING REVOLVED AROUND UNION UNITY, WITH CISL MINORITY ACCUSING STORTI OF MOVING TOWARD UNITY DOMINATED BY CGIL. STORTI REBUTTED ASSERTIONS IN LENGTHY DISCOURSE IN WHICH HE ALSO DISCUSSED BROAD UNION SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS. DIVORCE ISSUE CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION WITH STORTI DEFENDING CISL POSITION OF "NEUTRALITY" AND CLAIMING THAT HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY PRESSURED CGIL TO LIKEWISE ADOPT OFFICIAL NEUTRALITY. FANFANI WAS SAID TO HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED STORTI'S POSITIVE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. BASIC CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING, ACCORDING TO STORTI, WERE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) DC AND CISL WILL COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY BUT PARTY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO EXERT POLITICAL DISCIPLINE. PURSUANT TO THIS GOAL A SERIES OF DC/CISL MEETINGS WILL BE ARRANGED BUT, ACCORDING STORTI, THESE WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH STORTI AND THE CISL SECRETARIAT. GROUND RULES SAID STORTI MUST ALLOW CISL TO DESIGNATE ITS PARTICIPANTS WITH THE DC DOING LIKEWISE. THE CISL CANNOT ACCEPT AN APPROACH WHEREBY THE DC ALONE SENDS OUT INVITATIONS.

(B) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE DC POLITICAL POSITION WITH THE WORKERS IT WAS AGREED BY ALL THAT THE DC WOULD GREATLY STEP UP ORGANIZATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FACTORY AND IN WORKING CLASS DISTRICTS. PARTY IS FORMULATING ACTION PROGRAM IN LABOR AREA. DC OFFICIAL DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRAM IS FORMER LABMIN CARLO DONAT-CATTIN WHO NOW CHIEF OF DC SOCIAL AFFAIRS OFFICE. FANFANI WILL ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE.
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(C) DC REMAINS CONCERNED WITH MOVES TOWARD LABOR UNITY AND WILL DEVOTE A MEETING OF ITS NATIONAL COUNCIL TO THE QUESTION. FANFANI DECLARED THE PARTY BASICALLY IN FAVOR OF UNITY BUT FEARFUL THAT UNITY WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS WILL RESULT IN CGIL CONTROL. ALL SIDES THEREFORE AGREED, ACCORDING STORTI, TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO CONDITIONS OF UNITY -- GUARANTEES FOR MINORITIES, GREATER EVIDENCE OF CGIL AUTONOMY FROM THE PCI,

ETC.

(D) DC ASSURED STORTI THAT THE PARTY HAD NO INTEREST IN SPLITTING THE CISL; IN FACT, THE DC HOPED FOR A RECONSTITUTION OF CISL UNITY AND IDENTITY.

5. STORTI'S INTERPRETATION OF SIGNIFICANCE THIS MEETING DISPUTED BY CISL MINORITY LEADER SIRONI WHO TOLD EMBASSY THAT DC NOW FEELS IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE TRADE UNION RESPONSIVE TO THE PARTY IN SOME-WHAT THE SAME WAY THAT THE CGIL RESPONDS TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY. FANFANI LET IT BE KNOWN, SAID SIRONI, THAT THE CISL HAS DISAPPOINTED THE DC IN THIS REGARD. FOR SIRONI IMPORTANCE OF MEETING WAS DC DECISION TO COMPETE ALL-OUT WITH PCI IN LABOR ARENA. IF THE CISL WERE NOT PREPARED TO CARRY THE DC BANNER, THE PARTY WAS NOW READY TO CREATE A NEW TRADE UNION WHICH WOULD. CISL MINORITY WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF THIS UNION.

6. A THIRD SOURCE, UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR ONORIO CENGARLE (DC) WHO ALSO PRESENT TOLD EMBASSY THAT MEETING DEMONSTRATED RENEWED DC INTEREST IN LABOR AFFAIRS AND CONCERN WITH UNITARY DEVEL
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